(c) Allocation of non-plan revenue assistance is done on the basis of recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Ban on recruitment in Regional Rural Banks

234. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken with regard to withdrawal of "Ban on recruitment" in Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) The ban on recruitment in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), which was imposed *due to* their precarious financial condition, is still continuing. However, a Working Group to study and evolve long term scientific staffing norms for RRBs had been constituted by the Government. The Working Group has recently submitted its report to the Government. A decision to lift the ban or otherwise would be taken after examination of the Report of the Working Group.

Limit on Bonus

235. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the limit of Bonus in respect of workers and employees of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as to raise the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling is under consideration of the Government in the Ministry of Labour.

Departmental Exam for JMGS-I in SBI

236. SHRI V.P.DURAISAMY:
SHRI C.P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that departmental exam for JMGS-I for promotion to MMGS-II has become long overdue in SBI, LHO, New Delhi;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be held; and

(c) whether the Department would take necessary steps to speed up the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) According to State Bank of India (SBI) the promotion exercises of officers in Junior Management Grade Scale (JMGS)-I to Middle Management Grade Scale (MMGS)-II are held up w.e.f. 1.11.1996 in Delhi Circle. This is because new norms for categorisation of posts were introduced that year, reducing the total number of MMGS-II positions in the Circle, The SBI Officers Association has been insisting that promotions be effected even if vacancies are required to be arrived at on a notional basis. SBI have further reported that only after the matter is resolved, the promotion exercise for subsequent years can be undertaken. Both the Management and the Association are reported to be keen to find a solution to the issue at the earliest.

Foreign Equity in PSBs

237. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow foreign major equity in Public Sector Banks, consequent on reduction of Government's equity;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, whether the equity would be offered to the general public and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.